

**ABSTRACT**

Hepatocyte cells that are reversibly immortalized  
5 and grown in culture, which are functional and safe for use  
in transplantation, are disclosed. Also disclosed are  
methods for immortalizing primary hepatocytes, expanding the  
population of immortalized hepatocytes in culture, then  
reversing the immortalization to produce hepatocytes that  
10 are functional and safe for use in transplantation.

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